WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A document display apparatus that manages a plurality of electronic documents that each hold, when a linked document having display relevancy exists, the relative relevancy to that linked document as structure information, determines the display priority of each electronic document, and displays each electronic document based on its display priority, provided with:

a structure storage means for storing the display priority of each said electronic document;

a structure analysis means for determining the display priority of each of said plurality of electronic documents based on the structure information held by each of said plurality of electronic documents, and stores them in said structure storage means; and

a display means for determining the display method of each electronic document based on the display priority determined by said structure analysis means.

2. The document display apparatus according to Claim 1, further having:

an instruction reception means for receiving a display-related instruction input, wherein

based on the instruction input received by said instruction reception means, the display priority of each of said plurality of electronic documents is recalculated

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by said structure analysis means and is stored in said structure storage means.

3.   The document display apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein said display means displays only ones of said plurality of electronic documents whose display priority is a value larger than a predetermined display set value.

4.   The document display apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein

said display means allocates computer resources for displaying determined ones of said plurality of electronic documents in order of largest display priority value, and each of said electronic document having a corresponding display priority value that is smaller than a predetermined value are not displayed.

5.   The document display apparatus according to Claim 3, wherein said display means allocates computer resources to ones of said electronic documents having a display priority value that is larger than said display set value, in order of largest display priority value, and each electronic document whose display priority value is smaller than a predetermined value are not displayed.

6.   The document display apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said structure analysis means scans each linked document based on the structure information held by

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an origin electronic document, analyzes the document group

structure and stores information corresponding to the

document group structure in said structure storage means.

7.   The document display apparatus according to

Claim 6, wherein said structure analysis means does not

scan linked documents of electronic documents having a

display priority having a value that is smaller than a

predetermined first set value.

8.   The document display apparatus according to

Claim 7, wherein

said structure analysis means excludes electronic

documents whose display priority has a value smaller than

a predetermined second set value from the management

target of the document group structure stored in said

structure storage means, and releases computer resources

needed for the management of those documents.

9.   A document display method for managing a

plurality of electronic documents that each include

structure information relating to a linked document having

display relevancy, the document display method for

determining the display priority of each electronic

document, and for displaying each electronic document on a

display apparatus based on its display priority, provided

with:

determining a starting point document to be used as a

starting point when analyzing the structure information of
the plurality of electronic documents;

analyzing the structure information of the starting
point document and calculate the display priority of each
the linked document group whose link source is included in
the starting point document;

specifying a display document to be displayed on the
display apparatus based on the display priority of the
linked document group;

specifying the document group constituent documents
that constitute the document group structure, add and
store that structure information in the document group
structure based on the display priority of the linked
document group whose link source is the starting point
document; and

searching for the electronic document that
constitutes a next starting point document based on the
document group structure, wherein

the above steps are repeated, and scanning for
displaying is terminated at the point in time when there
are no longer any electronic documents that constitute the
starting point document determined by the determining of a
start point step.

10. The document display method according to Claim
9, wherein

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in said step of determining a start point, the origin document with highest priority is specified as the first starting point document based on instruction input.

11. The document display method according to Claim 10, wherein in said step of specifying a display document the display priority value of each electronic document of a linked document group linked to said starting point document is compared to a predetermined display set value such that all of these electronic documents having a display priority value greater than or equal to the predetermined display set value are set to be displayed on the display apparatus, and those electronic documents having a display priority value less that the predetermined display set value are not displayed on the display apparatus.

12. The document display method according to Claim 11, wherein said step of specifying a display document, computer resources are allocated for displaying determined electronic documents of the linked document group whose link source is the starting point document, and whose display priority value is greater than or equal to said display set value, and each electronic document whose display priority value is smaller than that of the display priority value is not displayed on the display apparatus.

13. The document display method according to Claim

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12, wherein in said step of specifying the document group

constituent documents the structure information of

electronic documents of the linked document group whose

link source is the starting point document having a

5   display priority value is smaller than the predetermined

first set value are not analyzed.

14.   The document display method according to Claim

12, wherein in said step of specifying the document group

constituent documents, computer resources needed for

10   managing electronic documents of the linked document. group

whose link source is the starting point document having a

display priority value that is smaller than a

predetermined second set value are released.

15.   A document display method for displaying a first

15   electronic document and a second electronic document, the

first electronic document having a information related to

the second electronic document, the method comprising the

steps of:

displaying the first electronic document on a

20   computer display;

overlaying an image on the first electronic document

corresponding to the second electronic document at a

predetermined positioned defined in the first electronic

document;

25   resizing the first electronic document and the image

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corresponding to the second electronic document such that the first electronic document and the image of the second electronic document change size proportionally with respect to one another, said resizing step being in response to user input or computer commands; and

further displaying the resized first electronic document and overlaying the resized image corresponding to the second document on the computer display maintaining relative positions between the first and second electronic documents in accordance with the predetermined position.

16. The document display method as set forth in claim 15 wherein:

in said overlaying step, further overlaying an image corresponding to a third electronic document on the first electronic document at a predetermined positioned defined in the first electronic document;

in said resizing step, further resizing the image corresponding to the third electronic document proportionally with the resizing of the first and second electronic documents; and

in said further displaying step, overlaying the resized image corresponding to the third electronic document on the first electronic document maintaining relative positions between the first and third electronic documents in accordance with the predetermined position of

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the third electronic document relative to the first

electronic document.

17. A document display apparatus for displaying a

first electronic document and a second electronic

5 document, the first electronic document having a

information related to the second electronic document, the

apparatus comprising:

means for determining display priority of the first

and second electronic document;

10 means for displaying the first electronic document on

a computer display;

means for overlaying an image on the first electronic

document corresponding to the second electronic document

at a predetermined positioned defined in the first

15 electronic document;

means for resizing the first electronic document and

the image corresponding to the second electronic document

in response to computer and/or user commands such that the

size of the first electronic document and the size of the

20 image of the second electronic document change

proportionally with respect to one another; and

means for further displaying the resized first

electronic document and overlaying the resized image

corresponding to the second document on the computer

25 display maintaining relative positions between the first

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and second electronic documents in accordance with the predetermined position.

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